

VZCZCXRO8114
RR RUEHMA RUEHPA
DE RUEHCO #1187 3401534
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 061534Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9067
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1018
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1300
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

UNCLAS COTONOU 001187

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/EPS:KRZYWDA, AF/W:BANKS, EB/TPP/ABT:LERSTEN
DEPT PASS TO COMMERCE:MD'ANDREA AND USTR:AHEYLIGER/LAGAMA
USDA FOR FAS/FAA HAGER, FAS/OCRA CHESLEY, FAS/OCBD EVANS
PARIS FOR D'ELIA
DAKAR FOR FAS (RHANSON)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAGR](#) [EINV](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [BN](#)

SUBJECT: COTTON PRICE FOR 2006-2007 CAMPAIGN SET

REF: A) COTONOU 1176; B) COTONOU 1167

¶1. Yesterday President Yayi personally announced to cotton farmers that the national purchase price for the 2006-2007 season would be 0.35 USD per kilogram. This is the price that farmers should receive from the Interprofessional Cotton Association (AIC). According to the national schedule for cotton production, transportation of raw cotton from the fields to ginning facilities will begin on December 8. The final cotton purchase price agreed was the outcome of Yayi's recent meetings with cotton growers and ginners. In Burkina Faso and Mali, Togo, and Cote d'Ivoire the national purchase prices for cotton have been set at approximately 0.33 USD, 0.32 USD, and 0.28 USD per kilogram, respectively.

¶2. In the wake of last week's replacement of the Minister of Agriculture (REF A), President Yayi took the opportunity to ask cotton growers to forget recent pest-related difficulties (REF B) and reassured them he would personally oversee the 2007-2008 cotton campaign. Specifically, President Yayi told cotton growers that a request for proposals for the purchasing and import of agricultural inputs (pesticides, fertilizer) for next year would be available to the public by the end of this week. Yayi further stated that, during the 2007-2008 cotton season, the price of cotton would be fixed three months prior to harvesting.

BROWN